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1964/03/01

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Harriman called in Dobrynin Feb 29 to hand him note on Laos (septel). Dobrynin read it and said he had already discussed subject with Secretary, except for Phou Khe. Harriman acknowledged but said we desired give him written record our views.

Harriman then emphasized Na Kay, fact Souvanna had cited presence NVN troops and had specifically requested Co-Chairmen to ask DRV remove their troops. Said NVN battalions in central Laos and PDJ. Dobrynin asked "In battalion strength?" Harriman repeated. Continued that Souvanna had specifi cally requested Co-Chairmen through Vientiane ambassadors to get Hanoi to remove their troops from Laos. Primary problem was that ICC was blocked by communist side from functioning properly. Co-Chairmen should encourage ICC to move in response PM's request. This could not be allowed to continue or else there would be break down of agreements.

Dobrynin said he would forward note to Moscow. Did not feel it necessar to discuss further since he had already been over same ground with Secretary. Harriman agreed and repeated we wanted them to have written record our views

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RUSK

Drafted by: FE:SEA:HLTKoren:mas:2/29/64
Clearances:

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: SEA - Henry L. T. Koren

SOV - Mr. Guthrie (subs) M - Governor Harriman S/S - Mr. Moose

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FORM 8-63 DS-322

requested that the International Control Commission

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and has the honor to state the following:

The Government of the United States views with utmost seriousness the continuing deterioration of the situation in Laos. This concern was expressed recently by both Ambassador Kohler to Foreign Minister Gromyko and by the Secretary of State to the Soviet Ambassador.

Regrettably the Government of the United States feels compelled once again to call the attention of the Government of the Soviet Union to the situation in Laos. On the morning of February 25, 1964, Pathet Lao forces attacked Phou Khe in the Xieng Khouang area near the Plaine des Jarres, in violation of the cease-fire. The Prime Minister of Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma, has requested that the International Control Commission use all means at its disposal to improve the deteriorating

situation caused by this violation.

This latest incident follows upon most flagrant violations of the cease-fire by Pathet Lao forces supported by North Vietnamese troops in the general area of Na Kay and Nhommarath last January. On January 16, 1964, the Prime Minister of Laos appealed to the International Control Commission to investigate these violations. Subsequently, he made a parallel appeal to the British and Soviet Co-Chairmen and specifically requested that they appeal to the North Vietnamese authorities to withdraw their troops from Laos. Neither of these appeals, to the Co-Chairmen or to the International Control Commission, has resulted in positive action to date.

These developments demonstrate the apparent failure to employ the machinery provided by the Geneva Agreements to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreements. This failure is of particular concern to the Government of the United States in view of the significance it attached to the Geneva Settlement in 1962, as a step

towards alleviating international tensions, and the continuing support which the United States has given to that settlement. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, has a special responsibility to "exercise supervision over the observance of this Protocol and the Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos."

In view of the present situation in Laos it is now all the more important for the International Control Commission to be able freely and fully to discharge its responsibilities under the Geneva Agreements. The Government of the United States continues to hope that the Government of the Soviet Union will use its influence to see to it that the Geneva Settlement is preserved.

Department of State,

Washington, February 29, 1964.